

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DOTE-00 OMB-01

INT-08 SCI-06 FEA-02 TRSE-00 NEA-11 AF-10 EA-11 DRC-01

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R 251700Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2936

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN ENRG IT UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - UK/ITALY AVIATION FUEL DISPUTE

REF: (A) ROME 960; (B) LONDON 846

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REF -- PLEASE PROTECT --
INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT BRITISH AND
ITALIANS HAD BEEN UNABLE FIND LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO AVIATION
FUEL DISPUTE FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS DESPITE EXTENSIVE TALKS THIS
WEEK IN ROME. COMPROMISE SHORT-TERM SOLUTION IS : (1) UK WILL
PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUEL FOR ALL RPT ALL PROGRAMMED SAM (ALITALIA
CHARTER SUBSIDIARY) FLIGHTS FOR REST OF JANUARY; (2) BRITISH CHARTERS
WILL BE PERMITTED TO OERATE TO/FROM ITALY FOR REST OF JANUARY; AND
(3) UK AND ITALY WILL MEET AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL EARLY IN FEBRUARY
TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS.

2. MINISTRY TOURISM IS URGING MINISTRY TRANSPORT AND CIVIL
AVIATION TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL DAMAGING EFFECT ON ITALIAN TOURIST
INDUSTRY OF RESUMPTION OF "CHARTER WAR," AS IT IS KNOWN IN
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ITALIAN PRESS. SINCE AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF CHARTER TRAFFIC

TO/FROM UK IS CARRIED IN BRITISH CARRIERS, WINTER TOURIST TRADE (ESPECIALLY IN NAPLES/CAPRI AREA) COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY FURTHER BAN ON UK CHARTERS.

3. MFA REP INDICATED COORDINATION BETWEEN MFA AND CIVILAVIA HAS LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED IN THIS CASE. MFA WAS CONSULTED EARLY IN MONTH WHEN PROBLEM FIRST AROSE (AND WAS RESOLVED BY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SAM'S UK FUEL ALLOCATION), BUT NO MFA-CIVILAVIA CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD WHEN AUGMENTED SUPPLY EXHAUSTED AND CHARTER BAN IMPOSED BY CIVILAVIA.

4. ABOVE INDICATES THAT, SHOULD FUEL PROBLEMS ARISE INVOLVING ITALIAN CARRIERS IN UK, IT MIGHT BE WISE TO UTILIZE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AT AN EARLY STAGE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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